

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 48**

#### **Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C Subsistence Fishing Schedule**

Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

As of June 28, the sonar project near Pilot Station has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 134,000 Chinook salmon. This cumulative passage estimate is well above average for this date, but below average for years with early run timing. However, based on sonar and run timing estimates, the 2016 Chinook salmon run is projected to be near the middle to upper end of the preseason outlook range of 130,000 to 175,000 Chinook salmon. A run of this size should be adequate to meet escapement goals and provide a limited harvestable surplus of Chinook salmon for subsistence.

Consistent with management strategies discussed at the pre-season meeting, subsistence fishing will open in Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C on a reduced regulatory schedule of two 24-hour periods per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets in an effort to provide summer chum salmon harvest and a limited harvest of Chinook salmon. Additionally, a single 6-hour subsistence salmon fishing period with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets is being provided between the two 24-hour periods to provide a brief opportunity to target Chinook salmon. Subsistence fishing is closed between these periods.

#### **Management Actions**

**Subdistricts 5-A, 5-B, and 5-C** (from the western edge of the mouth of Illinois Creek upstream to the ADF&G regulatory marker located approximately two miles downstream of Waldron

Creek, including the communities of Tanana and Rampart as well as the area near the Yukon River bridge):

Currently, subsistence salmon fishing is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week with selective gear including dip nets, beach seines, and live-release fish wheels only. Any Chinook salmon caught in these gear types must be immediately released to the water alive. The selective gear fishing season is closed effective 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 5.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 5, subsistence salmon fishing will be open for two 24-hour periods per week with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets (set net only) and fish wheels on the following schedule:

- 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays until 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays
- 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 6:00 p.m. Saturdays

**Effective Sunday, July 10, from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. midnight subsistence fishing is open for one 6-hour period with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnets and fish wheels.**

All salmon caught in set gillnets and fish wheels may be kept for subsistence use.

Subsistence salmon fishing is closed between periods. Fishermen may use 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets of 60 feet or shorter length to target non-salmon species during subsistence salmon fishing closures. Dip nets and beach seines may no longer be used for subsistence fishing.

A fishing permit is required to fish for all species in the portion of Subdistrict 5-C from the western most tip of Garnet Island upstream to the mouth of Dall River in the lower portion of Subdistrict 5-D.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at **(866) 479-7387** (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call **(907) 459-7387**.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADF&G office in Fairbanks at (907) 459-7274 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Emmonak at (907) 455-1849.

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